



State of Connecticut

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Testimony

In support of H.B. 5424 An Act Prohibiting Public Assistance For Those Who Abandon Residency

**Human Services Committee
January 29, 2015**

Dear Senator Moore, Senator Markley, Representative Abercrombie, Representative Wood, and members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing to you in support of **HB 5424 AN ACT PROHIBITING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO ABANDON RESIDENCY**.

I recently made an inquiry with the Department of Social Services asking them to provide the amount of money used by those receiving public assistance to make purchases in other states. I was appalled to hear when the Department replied and said that was a figure they did not track.

Keeping records of where and how public assistance is allocated is a critical step in maximizing benefits to those in our state as well as minimizing any opportunity for fraud or misuse. Our great neighbors to the north, Massachusetts, have also passed a bill to this effect.

There are special situations such as caring for a sick family member that would exclude an individual from these provisions. A waiver, provided by DSS, would ensure those who need to leave the state be granted use of their benefits for a pre-determined period of time.